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Henry Hastings Hall to Sarah Bracher, 20 January 1865

Mandurah W A

Jany 20th 1865

My dear Sister

I was very much grieved on receipt of your last letter, and if it had been in my power to assist you, you should not have waited until this for a reply; however I believe I did the best I could for you, I despatched it *at once* to Shake at Nicol Bay telling him if I had a £10 note and it was *the last*, I should have sent it *to you* — I feel sure S will do a little if he can. A vessel is now in from the Harding River and I may get a letter from him ere this is posted. Individually I have never been so short of money as during the past twelve months, my credit is good and I have not wanted for Stores &c but I don't think I have handled £12 in the year. This is a very poor district in a very poor Colony, I have my troubles although not perhaps so severe as yours It is not all sunshine with me, but I don't like to expose my troubles and cares if I can avoid it. I would rather put the sunny side out if there is one, and I think you are the same Of course in writing to strangers or men like my old friend Taylor, if they think I am doing *rattling*, I let them think on, *but I tell no lies*. I am leading such an uncomfortable unsatisfactory life at the present and getting into debt withal, that I shall let the farm and try something else for a time. These new settlements springing on the NW Coast will open a fresh field for men of merit and I have the promise (without asking for it) of something, when opportunity occurs. It shews how fond one is of egotism I started to write about you and your affairs and have flown off at a tangent to my own. I sincerely hope poor George is better, to be in poverty & sickness at once is bad indeed! As your letter is at Nicol Bay I cannot refer to it, but you seemed very anxious to get Fanny back, surely in your present adversity the dear girl is better a thousand times where she is; you must not let maternal feelings get the better of judgment; would that they were all as well housed. I have a team of ten bullocks hauling timber for

shipment on the Southern Estuary, I have no doubt the thing will pay well eventually, but up to the present lost time lost bullocks (strayed) & finally some £30 of stores and things destroyed by an incendiary I am some £60 out of pocket; for the last month things have been going on better. When the work is done here I have more offering at the Vasse 90 miles off and shall send the team there. If I were in a position to marry I should not leave the Murray, but I am not, as I never will take a wife to make a drudge of her, I'll sooner die an old maid I have lately had some correspondence with the Govt relative to getting a Free Pardon for F. I got a most kind but unfavourable reply, the gist of it was, if he alone were concerned the Governor would willingly do it, but some nine others for like offences would have to be dealt with the same I have sent copies to Aunt requesting her to forward to you. The English mail has been detained, I am only just in receipt of yours & George's, I have English letters that must be answered and this is almost the last hour, I will endeavour to write you next mail. Shake is prospering, I have no letter from him, Frank's address Care of Messrs Lazenby Cardup I think Ander is doing well. Anything I write you about myself is confidential Remember me kindly to Taylor &c &c with love to you all and sincerely hoping better prospects

Your affect brother

H H Hall

I have not time to send papers